

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03333 021449Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-11 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 /184 W

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R 021417Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3906

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 3333

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP EIND ENRG TU IR

SUBJ: TURKISH-IRAN NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROPOSAL

REFS: A) ANKARA 3169 B) STATE 86710 C) TEHRAN 3391

1. DURING VISIT TO ANKARA, EL PASO NATURAL GAS REPS MET WITH AMB, DCM, AND ECON COUNSELOR. LATTER ACCOMPANIED US-BELGIAN CONSORTIUM MEMBERS IN MEETINGS WITH TURKISH OFFICIALS.

2. US-BELGIAN GROUP HAD MEETINGS APRIL 30 WITH MR. GOKMEN, DIRGEN, ECON AFFAIRS, MFA, AND MR. CAHIT KAYRA, MINISTER OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES. ALSO HAD MEETING WITH FONMIN GUNES THAT WAS NOT SCHEDULED UNTIL LAST MOMENT. TURKISH OFFICIALS ASSURED US-BELGIAN GROUP THEY WELCOME

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PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT PIPELINE ACROSS TURKEY AND WILL

COOPERATE IN EVERY WAY. THEY SAID GOT IS NEUTRAL BETWEEN US-BELGIAN PROJECT AND ITALIAN-GERMAN-FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR PIPELINE ACROSS TURKEY AND GREECE, WHICH WOULD BE COMPETING FOR NATURAL GAS FROM SAME SOURCE IN IRAN. TURKISH SIDE WOULD LIKE TO SEE BOTH PROJECTS GO AHEAD IF SUFFICIENT NATURAL GAS AVAILABLE AT SOURCE.

3. US-BELGIAN CONSORTIUM ORIGINALLY PROPOSED THAT GOT OWN PIPELINE SECTION IN TURKEY. TURKISH SIDE INITIALLY FELT GOT WOULD NOT WISH TO INVEST IN PIPELINE TO CARRY GAS FROM SOURCE IT WOULD NOT CONTROL. BELIEVED THERE MIGHT BE CONSIDERABLE RISK THAT PIPEWINE MIGHT BE LEFT IDLE FOR SOME OR EVEN ALL THE TIME. (TURKISH PETROLEUM COMPANY REP POINTED OUT THAT CONNECTING PIPELINE SECTION IN IRAN COULD BE TWICE AS LONG AND COSTLY AND GOI WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE IT REMAIN IDLE.) IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS, TURKISH OFFICIALS INDICATED GROWING INTEREST IN GOT FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN PIPELINE. IT WAS RECOGNIZED THE PROPOSAL IS IN PRELIMINARY STAGE AND DEPENDS ON PROVING OF ADEQUATE RESERVES IN KANGAN FIELD IN IRAN. CHOICE OF PIPELINE PROPOSAL BETWEEN COMPETING CONSORTIA WILL DEPEND ON DECISION IN IRAN AS TO WHICH GETS AVAILABLE GAS (UNLESS RESERVES EVENTUALLY SUFFICIENT FOR BOTH PROJECTS).
MACOMBER

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